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**Representative Joseph Geller & Senator Victor Torres File Legislation to
Protect Florida's Children**

Tallahassee, FL – Representative Joseph Geller (D-Dania Beach) and Senator Victor Torres (D-Orlando) have filed [HB 1197](#) and [SB 1690](#) to help ensure the safety of Florida's students by providing financial assistance to school districts to hire part-time school resource officers, sometimes referred to as reserve officers, at each public school.

“By encouraging school districts to hire school resource officers, we will protect our most valuable resource, our children, and ensure they can learn in a safe environment,”

Representative Joseph Geller emphasized. “Having an officer in every school is another valuable tool to help our students succeed and we should be providing our schools with this resource.”

In addition to keeping our schools safe, resource officers fill a vital role as counselors for students by mentoring them and serving as positive role models.

“We know that these officers become trusted members of the communities in which they serve and have an incredibly positive impact on the lives of the children with which they interact,” stated **Senator Victor Torres**. “Providing our students, especially those most at-risk students, with a strong role model to act as a guide can help them improve their decision-making and lead to better long-term outcomes, while also helping to keep them safe.”

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